

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

Claims 1-11, 16-22 and 27 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites a second computer connected to one of said connecting means, and a first computer connected to the network circuit. Claim 1 further recites that said first computer comprises resource information managing means and resource information processing means and said second computer comprises resource setting means setting the hardware or software according to the hardware or software information transmitted by said resource information processing means.

Thus, there are first and second computers each with particular elements and a relation to each other with respect to the transmitted hardware or software information.

In contrast, Blair does not appear to teach the claimed first computer. Instead, Blair discloses a plurality of workstations 101 or 105 connected to output devices 102 via a network 103. Blair, Fig. 1 and col. 3, ln. 45-50. The Examiner construes these workstations as corresponding to the claimed second computer. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that this is the case, there is no disclosure of a first computer as claimed.

Blair further discloses a software environment 108 that enables an end user 113 to manage virtual connections between the workstations 101 and the output devices 104. The Examiner construes the software environment as corresponding to the claimed resource information managing means and resource information processing means. However, there is no disclosure that the software environment 108 is embodied in a computer other than the workstations 101 (i.e., embodied in a first computer). Although column 4, lines 19-39 of the reference present details of the software environment 108, the reference does not specifically state where the software 108 is embodied.

A consequence of the missing first computer is that the workstations 101 of Blair do not include resource setting means for setting the hardware or software according to the hardware or software information transmitted by said resource information processing means of said first computer. Thus, Blair also does not disclose the second computer, as claimed.

Based on the above, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

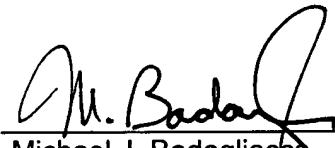
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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